(b) if so, whether this 'biological method' has been used anywhere and whether positive results have been achieved; and

(c) if so, what are the areas, and States where Government is going to start the new method for increasing fresh forest cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It reiterates plantation of salt tolerant tree species in saline soil. Biological method including soils amendments is in progress in such soils of Uttar Pradesh with positive results More details of the new biological method are being ascertained

Ban on industrial activities in Aravali range

4392. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has requested Government to review its decision imposing a blanket ban on industrial activity in the Aravali range;

(b) whether such a step would have an impact on the overall growth and development of the districts nearby Aravali range; and

(c) if so, the further reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) While a notification had been issued on 7th May, 1992 for restricting certain activities in specified area of Aravali Range which are causing environmental degradation in the region, there has been no decision imposing a blanket ban on industrial activities as presumed by the PHD Chamber of Commerce while making a request for a review.

Setting up of Indian Institute of Forest Management

4393. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the objective in setting up the Indian Institute of Forest Management, the Environmental Protection and Coordination Organisation and the Disaster Management Institute;

(b) whether Government have made any review of the working of these organisations to know as to how far the objectives for which these were set up have been achieved;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are contemplated by Government in case their performance has been found to be unsatisfactory and below expectations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The objectives of the Institutes are set out in Statement (*See* below)

(b) to (d) As far as IIFM, Bhopal is concerned, its working is reviewed by the Board of Governors and the Society of IIFM in their meetings. The institution has had some problems due to absence of a regular Director. However, that difficulty has been overcome and strengthening of the faculty, widening the coverage and content of forestry management programmes and further building up of the infrastructure are in hand.

Review of the functioning of the ENVIS centre at EPCO is being undertaken by the ministry from time to time since its inception and the performance has been found to be satisfactory.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India do not have direct control over the working of the Disaster Management Institute, Bhopal.